



Gc  
929.2  
D346291b  
2014965

M. L.

REYNOLDS HISTORICAL  
GENEALOGY COLLECTION

ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY



3 1833 01208 7729





Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2018

<https://archive.org/details/historicsketchof00burk>





HISTORIC SKETCH

OF THE

DEARTH

FAMILY

By

FRANK A. BURKHARDT

LIMA. O.



Dedicated to

My Grandchildren



ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

October 22, 1936

78

8292 8

AMERICAN GAZETTE

OF THE

# DEATH FAMILY

THE NEW YORK

OF THE

THE

THE

THE

THE NEW YORK

THE NEW YORK

THE

THE NEW YORK

THE NEW YORK

THE NEW YORK



2014965



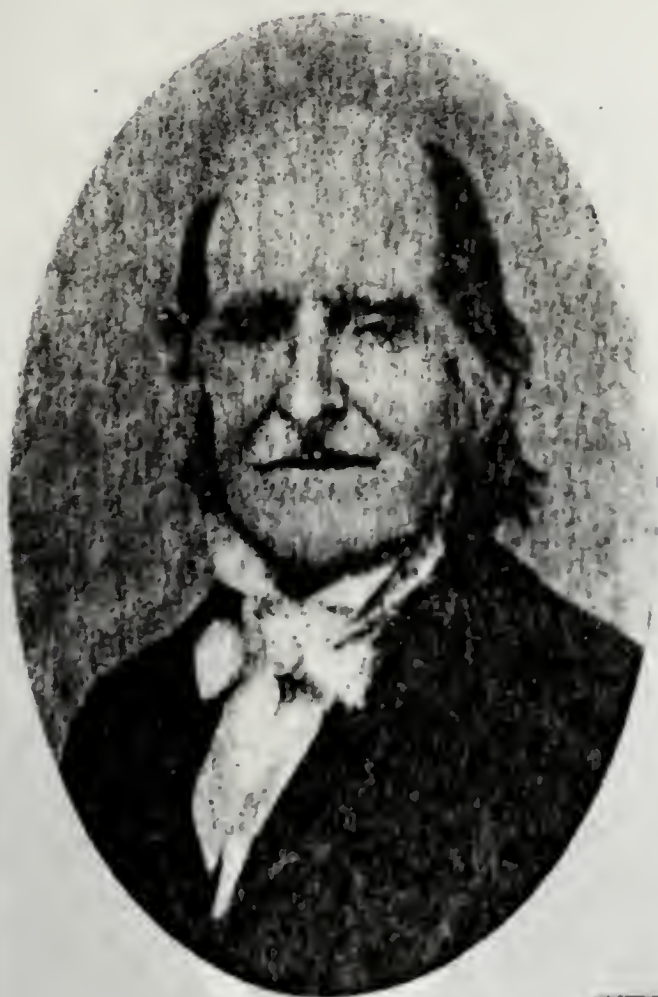
Rec'd Sept 25-1978

2001.6

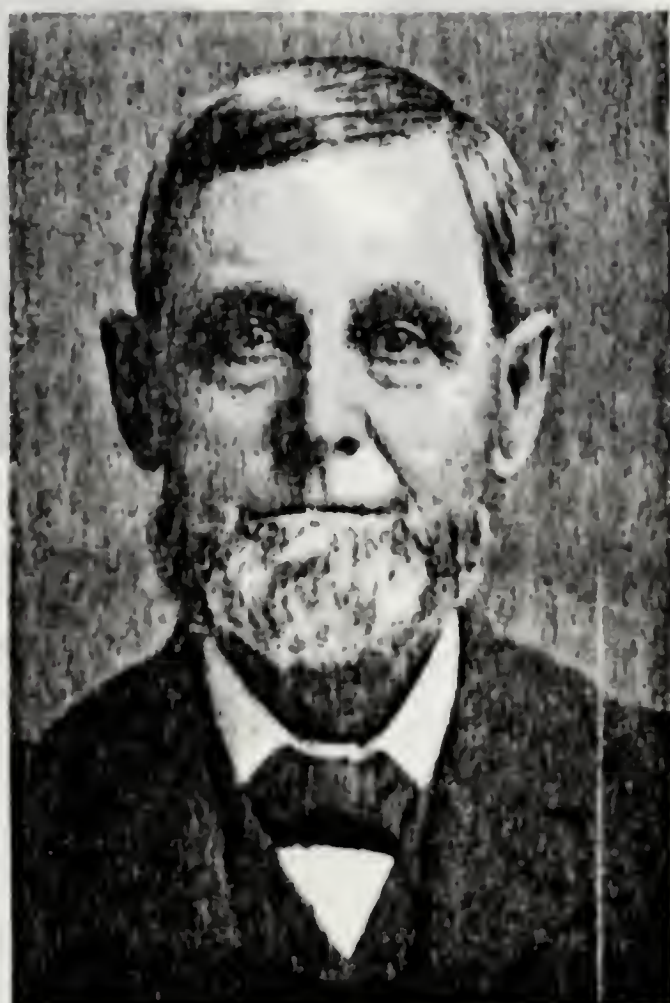


2001.6

2001.6



ISAAC DEARTH



SAMUEL M DEARTH



EDWARD D. BENT



EDWARD D. BENT



*The Death Family*



MR. AND MRS. F. A. BURKHARDT

(FROM PHOTO, JUNE 16, 1936, OCCASION OF 40TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY)

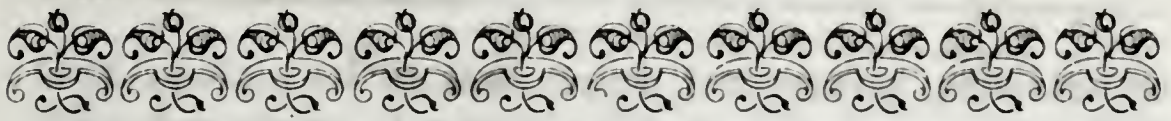
*Lima Ohio.*



Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Smith

*Portrait by J. H. Smith*





## *The Dearth Family*



SHALL recite to you my grandchildren a brief story of your grandmother's people. Your dear grandmother Burkhardt's maiden name was Nannie Dearth. Her childhood years were spent at a country home in Warren County, Ohio. The farm was just over the hill from Red Lion to the North. Her great grandfather, Edward Dearth, moved his family to this land from Pennsylvania in 1798. At that time many Indians lived in villages not far away. Ohio was not yet a state.

Almost two hundred years ago the first Dearth's came to America. The family seat was for many years in Kent County, England. Here it was that Christianity was first accepted in England. Only the strait of Dover separates this part of England from France, as you see by looking upon a map of the region.

I cannot tell you for certain just how they came to have the name Dearth, or just how long ago the family ancestors located in Kent County. Some people think the name was once upon a time spelled Death. Some of the kin do in fact spell the name that way today. I am quite sure that some time it may be shown that the early name was De'Ath or De'Arth and will trace to France of the Reformation period. Today almost every Protestant church denomination is represented in the family branches.

The Dearth family must have been of prominence in Kent County as a great fortune appears to have been

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY  
ASTOR LENOX TILDEN FOUNDATION

# THE GREAT GATSBY

BY F. SCOTT FITZGERALD  
WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY THE AUTHOR  
AND A FOREWORD BY EDWARD B. SEYMOUR  
NEW YORK: THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY  
ASTOR LENOX TILDEN FOUNDATION  
1925



THE GREAT GATSBY  
BY F. SCOTT FITZGERALD  
WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY THE AUTHOR  
AND A FOREWORD BY EDWARD B. SEYMOUR  
NEW YORK: THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY  
ASTOR LENOX TILDEN FOUNDATION  
1925

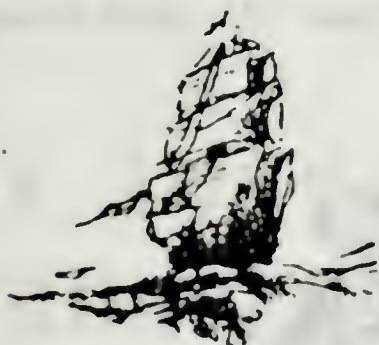


## THE DEARTH FAMILY

---

held unclaimed in that name for several generations. The American Dearth's vainly tried to set up a valid claim to secure reported millions kept in trust in English banks. All efforts were without success.

About the year 1742 three Dearth brothers came to America on an English colony ship. As it was known



that the three located at Deer Creek in Maryland, I am quite sure they landed from a ship that sailed up the Chesapeake Bay. The names of the brothers were John, William, Sr., and James, Sr. These young men were in the prime of their lives and were truly brave pioneers.

John, the first named, was killed by Indians in Kentucky in the days of Daniel Boone. It is said he left no descendants. William, Sr., has many of his lineage living today. These are located in Pennsylvania and Ohio mainly. One from this branch, Mr. William H. Dearth, of Pittsburgh, Pa., has spent much time and effort in tracing the various branches in the interest of a family genealogy.

The other of the three brothers was James, Sr. He is the direct ancestor of Nannie Dearth Burkhardt, your grandmother. We know little of the early pioneer doings and records of James, Sr., in the days that he reared his family in Maryland. We do know that the



mountainous regions of the state were a dense unconquered wilderness. There was the wild life of the forests as well as the uncertain friendship of roving Indians and traders that sorely tried the frontiersman in the days when the first Dearth's lit their hearthfires.

## THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY

ASTOR LENOX TILDEN FOUNDATION  
455 N. 5TH ST. NEW YORK, N. Y.

For the purpose of making known the  
names of the donors of the books and  
the amount of the contributions, the  
names of the donors are published in  
this list.

The names of the donors are arranged  
in alphabetical order of the names of  
the donors. The names of the donors  
are given in full, and the amount of  
the contribution is given in dollars  
and cents. The names of the donors  
are given in full, and the amount of  
the contribution is given in dollars  
and cents.



The names of the donors are arranged  
in alphabetical order of the names of  
the donors. The names of the donors  
are given in full, and the amount of  
the contribution is given in dollars  
and cents. The names of the donors  
are given in full, and the amount of  
the contribution is given in dollars  
and cents.

The names of the donors are arranged  
in alphabetical order of the names of  
the donors. The names of the donors  
are given in full, and the amount of  
the contribution is given in dollars  
and cents. The names of the donors  
are given in full, and the amount of  
the contribution is given in dollars  
and cents.



The names of the donors are arranged  
in alphabetical order of the names of  
the donors. The names of the donors  
are given in full, and the amount of  
the contribution is given in dollars  
and cents. The names of the donors  
are given in full, and the amount of  
the contribution is given in dollars  
and cents.



## THE DEARTH FAMILY

---

Maryland was one of the states that reluctantly joined the others in the cause of the American Revolution. It was at a time when questions of loyalty and independence were rife when Willim, Sr., and James, Sr., moved their families from Maryland into Pennsylvania. This was in the year 1777 and the place of their new abode was in Westmoreland County. A few years later the land they occupied became a part of



Fayette County. Here they lived during the stirring days of the Revolution. James, Sr., is said to have been a soldier in the War for Independence. He was born in England in 1720 and lived until 1797. From a letter of William H. Dearth it is learned that James, Sr., was buried in a family cemetery on the original Dearth farm in Fayette County. A durable residence of his youngest son is in a good state of preservation on the same farm.

From family tradition that has come down through the years it is related that Edward Dearth, a son of James, Sr., was a chief actor in a love romance of long years ago. It appears that some of the Dearth horses hied away one night once upon a time. A searching





## THE DEARTH FAMILY

---

party quickly took up the trail that led into Maryland. After a day of hard riding they came upon the strays near the humble cabin of a certain Roberts family. In fancy one may surmise the likely appearance of the motley group that was permitted to stay overnight at the forest home of the Roberts'. In the rescue group of horse hunters was Edward Dearth, a stalwart swain. In the Roberts home was a shy and comely maiden named Elizabeth. An admiring ardor ripened into a courtship of love that early terminated in marriage. It may have been a case of love at first sight, this we surmise only, but it is a safe guess that one of the truant steeds was sentenced to make several trips over the trail other than the one of the fateful night.

Thus in the spring of 1798 Elizabeth, faithful and true, like unto the Biblical Ruth, parted ties with her own people who lived near at hand in Maryland. Bravely with her group of six children about her she witnessed the loading of the family belongings as the cargo of a flat boat. The craft was built by the skilled hands of Edward and was launched upon the waters of the beautiful Ohio river at the time of spring freshets. Here was a real adventure in days of great hopes and hardships. Were such a journey to be undertaken in these modern days it would be heralded by heavy headlines and descriptive columns. The family landed safely where Cincinnati is now located. This was on April 16, 1798. Just look at your geography and note how far the family group sailed down the river over the shallows and around the many curves. At the time of their landing only a few huts marked the place where the great city now flourishes. After they arrived it was some six years before a weekly mail service route was opened to Franklin and Lebanon in Ohio.

Thus we have your branch of the Dearth's on Ohio soil. It is recorded that two brothers of Edward





## THE DEARTH FAMILY

---

(James, Jr., and William) came to Ohio and also settled in Warren County at or about the same time. It is most certain that Edward and Elizabeth hopefully planned a future heritage for their kindred, as it is known that they took up a princely tract of some 1080 acres in Clear Creek and Franklin Townships. Here



was an unbroken forest of mighty virgin trees. The rich underlying soil in after years provided a fertile tobacco region.

The Dearth settlement early became a busied place as they began to build log huts, to clear away the great trees and to break up the new soil for gardens and fields. The spot where the first hut was built and where the well was dug was pointed out up to very recent years. From this early homestead the Dearth Family with its many kindred ties has taken its place in the front ranks of those that gave to Ohio, sons and daughters, who worked out the destinies of a great state of the Union.

One of the six children of Edward and Elizabeth was Isaac Dearth. He was your grandmother's grandfather. His boyhood days were in Pennsylvania and the balance of his life was spent in Warren County,





## THE DEARTH FAMILY

---

at a time when wolves raided flocks of sheep and when it was not an unusual sight to see flocks of wild turkeys walk boldly into the pioneer barnyards. Isaac married a lady named Elizabeth Newport. It is related that when she was a little tot some passing Indians took away a blanket that covered her as she slept in a cradle. Two bad Indians were once trapped in a woods on the Dearth farm. They were discovered as they were feasting on ham and venison. It is told that they were pursued by white men from Cincinnati. They were suspected of murder. One escaped but the other was killed on the spot and for years the place was pointed out to the curious residents of the locality.

Isaac Dearth inherited or acquired a part of the original tract in Franklin township. His father, Edward, had purchased the land a part of the Symmes tract. Due to financial tangles this land had to be repurchased for a valid title from the government. Isaac was one of the original Christian ministers and preached during the late pioneer days of Warren County. To the union of Isaac and Elizabeth were born four sons and four daughters and their descendants are many. Both were buried in the old cemetery near Franklin and close by was the grave of his father, Edward. In more recent years the graves of Isaac and Elizabeth were transferred to a new cemetery at Franklin.

We are now to speak of Samuel Dearth, who was one of the four sons of Isaac. Samuel was the father of your very own grandmother Burkhardt. This means also that he is a great grandfather to you.

Samuel Dearth was born on August 28, 1833, on the old homestead farm in Warren County, Ohio. Here he lived all his life except one year. He was called to the colors in the Civil War, but experienced camp service only. I have pleasant recollections of visits at





## THE DEARTH FAMILY

---

the old farm during his life time. I shall have more to say in relating my early experiences here. This may be found later on in subsequent lines.

Samuel Dearth was first married to Sarah Feerer. To this union was born Ida May Dearth-Eckhardt. He was married secondly to Caroline C. Carey, who was a daughter of William Carey and Anne Smith Carey. To this second union were born Emma Belle Dearth Brehm, James Edward Dearth, Nellie (deceased), Isaac Robert Dearth, Nannie Dearth Burkhardt, Ella Myrtle Dearth Donithorne, Clinton Richard Dearth (deceased), and Harry Dearth (deceased).

Samuel passed on to his reward in November, 1911. He was laid away in the beautiful hill top cemetery near Franklin, Ohio. One of his sisters married James McClain, who lived to an advanced age of one hundred and four years. One of his sons at this time is ninety-nine years old and another, John McClain, is a prominent author and has passed the age of ninety.

The Dearth's have had many reunions in Ohio and Indiana. It has been my pleasure to meet many of the kindred.

You, my gracious grandchildren, may in confidence face the future of our country knowing full well that you possess a patriotic colonial lineage from your maternal and paternal ancestral strains alike. Here are the generation steps leading back to colonial times and even to old England:

Dearth Ancestor (England).

James Dearth, Sr.

Edward Dearth.

Isaac Dearth.

Samuel Dearth.

Nannie (Dearth) Burkhardt.

Ethel Lucile, Lorene, Mildred Lenore, and  
Dorothy Marie.





## THE DEARTH FAMILY

---

I shall here relate some of my early experiences in courtship adventures in the land of the Dearth. In the summer of 1893 I found myself in a state of mind that impelled me to undertake a journey to the old homestead in Warren County. I had closed my first year as a country school teacher of the Little Hog Creek school near Cridersville. Your grandmother, after closing



her term of teaching at Lima, had gone to the Dearth farm for a vacation. Some quaint sort of urge possessed me as I dauntlessly set forth from my old home in Shawnee township. It was at grey dawn that I vigorously pedaled southward, attended by a chorus of crowing roosters. It was in the horse and buggy days, but my trusty convey-

ance was a late model but un-streamlined bicycle.

I am sure you will agree that to start out on a 100-mile jaunt in this manner evinces a measure of bravery. Of course there was a blow-out and a shower or two. There were some steep grades and plenty of jolting boulders to try to avoid. It was high noon when I wheeled into Dayton. About mid-afternoon I laboriously pumped away over the last Warren County hill to behold at a distance the Dearth farm buildings.

Up to this time I had never met my father-in-law-to-be and moreover was not any too sure as to how well I stood in the estimation of his timid daughter then known to me as Nannie. Can you imagine with what

## THE HISTORY OF

The History of the City of London, from its first settlement to the present time, is a subject of great interest and importance. It is a subject which has attracted the attention of many of the most distinguished writers of the age, and which has been the subject of many valuable and interesting works. The history of the City of London is a subject which is of great interest and importance to all who are interested in the history of the British Empire, and who wish to know more of the history of the City of London, and of the history of the British Empire, and who wish to know more of the history of the City of London, and of the history of the British Empire.

The history of the City of London is a subject which is of great interest and importance to all who are interested in the history of the British Empire, and who wish to know more of the history of the City of London, and of the history of the British Empire, and who wish to know more of the history of the City of London, and of the history of the British Empire. The history of the City of London is a subject which is of great interest and importance to all who are interested in the history of the British Empire, and who wish to know more of the history of the City of London, and of the history of the British Empire, and who wish to know more of the history of the City of London, and of the history of the British Empire.



The history of the City of London is a subject which is of great interest and importance to all who are interested in the history of the British Empire, and who wish to know more of the history of the City of London, and of the history of the British Empire, and who wish to know more of the history of the City of London, and of the history of the British Empire. The history of the City of London is a subject which is of great interest and importance to all who are interested in the history of the British Empire, and who wish to know more of the history of the City of London, and of the history of the British Empire, and who wish to know more of the history of the City of London, and of the history of the British Empire.



## THE DEARTH FAMILY

---

misgivings and wavering hopes I parked my bike against the empaled fence and, after dusting up a little, marched up the pathway to be greeted most cordially.

At that time in life I had experienced no war and little or nothing in love or politics. It dawned upon me keenly that here was a case that called for diplomatic tactics. Of course I was a bit shaky and all the more so because I knew one of the grandmother's sisters to be a clever tease. I cast aside all my dignity as a teacher and did not miss a chance to demonstrate an aptness to do a variety of farm chores. With avidity I reeled an ancient pump of the Old Oaken Bucket fame. I helped at feeding time, split kindling and even joined the harvest hands unmindful of dust and heat.

In the evening I had occasion to experience the truth of an old adage to the effect that actions speak stronger than words. It is recalled with what a relief I observed a serious-minded bearded father slyly but firmly tweak a roseate cheek of his daughter as he gently vacated a hospitable living room to leave the two of us all alone. I was not mistaken. It was a winning signal as far as parental consent was involved.

On June 16, 1896, there was a bridal procession to the tune of Lohengrin at 1033 West Market Street in



Lima, Ohio. Rev. C. H. Eckhardt officiated at his home thus located. Mrs. Eckhardt, a sister of your grandmother, was also a "big sister," too, at the Lima home for several years preceding the wedding ceremony.

After a lake trip and several days in Toledo, a modest little home was occupied at 287 South Pierce Street in Lima. It was here that E. Lucile was born. Some three years later we moved to 121 North Jame-son Avenue, where Lorene was born. In 1905 the little





## THE DEARTH FAMILY

---

family moved to a new home at 717 West Elm Street, where Mildred and Dorothy were born. This was the family homestead until the summer of 1927, when Allentown, Pa., became the adopted family residence.

I can best portray to you my grandchildren the early religious feelings that swayed your own grandmother by appending an essay written by her as a country school girl of Franklin township in the late



seventies. This essay, entitled "Churches," reveals a faith in the budding, a faith that has ever grown with the years. I also am preserving for you a descriptive narrative of a trip to the Warren County fair. Here is a refreshing youth picture of the early eighties.

May these random lines afford a peep into an intimate family gazing globe for you my dear grandchildren. May the toils and privations and prayers of your forebears be not in vain. A more abundant life is in store for you and may you ever be worthy of a heritage bestowed by those who know full well that "Man proposes but God disposes."





# CHURCHES

An essay written by Nannie Dearth as a little girl about 1879 when attending a country school near Red Lion, Ohio, in Warren County. The writer is now Mrs. Frank A. Burkhardt and resides in Allentown, Pa.

Churches are very useful buildings. There are a great many churches. Almost every town or village has a church of some kind. There are several different



2014965

kind of churches, as: Presbyterian, Methodist, Lutheran or German Reformed, United Brethren, Christian, Roman Catholic, Universalist, and Quaker churches.

# CHURCHES

THE CHURCHES OF THE  
CITY OF LONDON

THE CHURCHES OF THE  
CITY OF LONDON

1851



THE CHURCHES OF THE  
CITY OF LONDON



## THE DEARTH FAMILY

---

It is very nice to go to Sunday School on Sunday and to church. There are people who never go to church. Some people never go to church because they are too poor and can not dress as fine as others can and others who run around the country on Sunday instead of going to church. There are people who live in towns and cities that never go to church or let their children go to Sunday School, when they could go every Sunday.

The first thing they do in church in the morning is the scholars look over their lesson and say "Good Morning" to the teachers and then they recite their lessons; by that time a great many people have come; then they sing and the minister preaches his sermon and some one plays the organ and then they pray and then church is out. Then the people talk a little while and they get in their buggies and carriages and start out of town into the country and go over hills and creeks until they get home.

How much better for some if they would read the Bible and go to church on Sabbath morning.







# The Warren Co. Fair

The Warren County Fair started the 21st of September and ended the 24th. I started early Thursday morning and when I arrived at the fair ground there were about a dozen buggies and carriages there. After I was there a few moments I went down to the Floral Hall and it wasn't open yet. Then I went back to the wagon and stayed there a little while. Then I went back to the Hall. I think the Hall was nicer than anything on the fair grounds. There was a beautiful display of fancy work in the Hall. There was a gentleman



from Middletown with some very fine flowers. There were two glass monuments which are very rare. There were several stuffed birds of several kinds, also stuffed squirrels, rabbits, foxes and a large peacock. I saw some German Carp in glass vessels of water. One fish



# The Wishing Tree

It was a very old tree, and its branches were so thick and its leaves so green that it was like a giant's hand reaching out to the sky. The children of the village used to go to the tree every day, and they would sit under its shade and play. One day, a little boy named Tom went to the tree and he found a small box hidden under one of its roots. He opened the box and he found a piece of paper with some words written on it. The words were: "If you wish for anything, just say it to the tree, and it will give you what you want." Tom was very happy, and he went home and told his mother about the box. His mother was very surprised, and she told him that the tree was a magic tree, and that it could give him anything he wished for. Tom was very excited, and he went back to the tree every day, and he would sit under its shade and play. One day, he wished for a new toy, and the tree gave him a new toy. He was very happy, and he went back to the tree every day, and he would sit under its shade and play. One day, he wished for a new friend, and the tree gave him a new friend. He was very happy, and he went back to the tree every day, and he would sit under its shade and play. One day, he wished for a new house, and the tree gave him a new house. He was very happy, and he went back to the tree every day, and he would sit under its shade and play. One day, he wished for a new life, and the tree gave him a new life. He was very happy, and he went back to the tree every day, and he would sit under its shade and play.



The tree was very old, and its branches were so thick and its leaves so green that it was like a giant's hand reaching out to the sky. The children of the village used to go to the tree every day, and they would sit under its shade and play. One day, a little boy named Tom went to the tree and he found a small box hidden under one of its roots. He opened the box and he found a piece of paper with some words written on it. The words were: "If you wish for anything, just say it to the tree, and it will give you what you want." Tom was very happy, and he went home and told his mother about the box. His mother was very surprised, and she told him that the tree was a magic tree, and that it could give him anything he wished for. Tom was very excited, and he went back to the tree every day, and he would sit under its shade and play. One day, he wished for a new toy, and the tree gave him a new toy. He was very happy, and he went back to the tree every day, and he would sit under its shade and play. One day, he wished for a new friend, and the tree gave him a new friend. He was very happy, and he went back to the tree every day, and he would sit under its shade and play. One day, he wished for a new house, and the tree gave him a new house. He was very happy, and he went back to the tree every day, and he would sit under its shade and play. One day, he wished for a new life, and the tree gave him a new life. He was very happy, and he went back to the tree every day, and he would sit under its shade and play.



INTIMATE SNAPSHOTS OF OUR FAMILY



THE BROWN FAMILY, 1880



## THE DEARTH FAMILY

---

was dead and was put in ice. There were a great many stones and shells. There was a star fish and a bleeding tooth which are very odd. There were some very fine coffins. There was a large collection of Indian relics, beetls and butterflies. In the art department several paintings were to be seen. One was a portrait of General Durbin Ward which attracted great attention.

There was a large display of fruits in the fruit halls such as apples, peaches, pears, grapes, quinces, plums, and several other kinds. There was a large display of canned fruit, jellies, bread and cakes. There were four large pumpkins from one vine. The large one weighed one hundred and twenty pounds and the smallest one hundred and nine pounds. There were a great many other things in the fruit hall too numerous to mention.

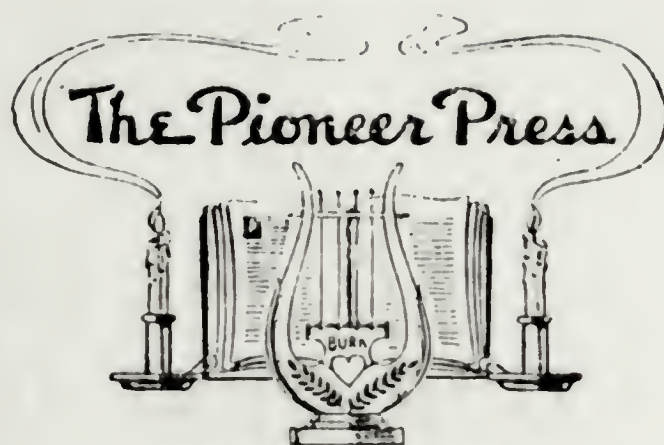
The side shows were there as usual and the revolving swing was the first thing to attract the attention as one entered the gate. There were two large displays of agricultural implements. The poultry exhibitors had a large stock there, and there were also three ferrets. The carriage stand was full of very nice carriages and buggies, also a fine hearse. The music by the band was good. They played several old and familiar pieces. Buffalo Bill was there. He had medicines to sell. He had two snakes and an alligator and he gave one of his snakes whiskey and put it around his neck. He said it made a pretty good neckties. He said it was the king snake and he caught it in Pennsylvania.

In the afternoon about four o'clock it began to rain. So we started home and got home about dark.

NANNIE DEARTH,  
(About 1882) Franklin, Ohio.



A PRODUCT OF



5540 MELROSE AVE.  
OPPOSITE N.B.C. STUDIO  
HOLLYWOOD



















